

**ADDITION TO THE HERPETOFAUNA OF QUEENSLAND'S BRIGALOW BIOGEOGRAPHIC REGION.** *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum* 45(2). 394. 2000:- The herpetofauna of the Brigalow Biogeographic Region has been assessed and documented in some detail (Covacevich et al. 1996). Their work comprised a review and synthesis of material held in several museums, collation of sight records from numerous authorities within the region and reports of extensive fieldwork. One hundred and forty five species of reptiles were recorded as occurring within the Brigalow Biogeographic Region (Covacevich et al. 1996).

In December 1997, I located a previously unrecorded species, *Varanus storri*, in the northern portion of the region. A single specimen was found on the Nebo to Collinsville road, c. 10km north of the Newlands turnoff and 50km S of the junction with the Mt Coolon - Collinsville road at 21°09'S, 148°13'E. The road passes through Homevale and Emu Plains. The specimen was located beneath a large rock on the road verge (Fig. 1). A transparency of the specimen has been lodged with the Queensland Museum images collection (Reg. no. OG37).

The low rolling hill area where the specimen was found is a mixed eucalypt open woodland of Mountain Coolibah (*Eucalyptus argadophila*) and Poplar Box (*E. populnea*) interspersed with open grassland patches of Bluegrass

(*Bothriochloa decipiens*, *Dichanthium sericeum*) and Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda australis*). Soils in this area are clay loams derived from shales. Some outcropping of these shales occurs on the peaks of the low hills. At the point where the specimen was located surface rocks were well embedded.

*Varanus storri* is found usually where rocks provide cover for their shallow burrows (pers. obs.). Abundant surface outcropping occurs within 10km to the north of the site where the specimen was located, though this area was not searched. It seems likely that rocks on roadside verges may provide corridors of suitable habitat. *V. storri* is common in similar habitat approximately 150km west of this site, in the Desert Uplands Biogeographic Region (pers. obs.).

#### Acknowledgements

Juliana McCosker of the Department of Environment, Emerald, identified botanical samples from the site.

#### Literature Cited

COVACEVICH, J.A., COUPER, P.J. & McDONALD, K.R. 1996. Reptiles of Queensland's Brigalow Biogeographic Region: Distribution, Status, Conservation. Unpubl. report to Australian National Council.

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FIG. 1. *Varanus storri* on the Nebo to Collinsville road.